

Kindly add the following new claims:

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14. The process according to claim 7, wherein the biodegradable polymer is a biodegradable polymer that is used in a sustained-release preparation that releases a physiologically active substance over the course of at least about six months.

7. ~~15. A biodegradable polymer obtained by the production process as set forth in claim~~

16. A sustained-release preparation containing the biodegradable polymer as set forth in claim 15.

17. The sustained-release preparation according to claim 16 further containing a physiologically active substance.

18. The sustained-release preparation according to claim 17, wherein the physiologically active substance is an LH-RH derivative or its salt.